

Washington, D.C. - The 110th Congress has brought fiscal responsibility back to Washington, Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) declared Thursday on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building.

On the anniversary of the new Democratic majority's election, Bean joined House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and others in a celebration of the accomplishments of the 110th Congress. Bean was recognized for leadership in promoting accountability and transparency in Congress.

"I know most people don't associate Washington with fiscal responsibility; they think they don't go together. But in the 110th Congress, they do," Bean said. "We've restored what had been successful in the past – PAYGO budget rules and fiscal discipline – by requiring Congress to pay for what we spend. After years of the borrow-and-spend policies that ran this nation up to a \$9 trillion national debt, it's about time."

Joining Bean was 8th District constituent Jacquelyn "Jackie" Cohen of Grayslake and her 11-year-old grandson from Highland Park, Max Jacobs.

"I'm glad that this Congress has finally stopped all of the deficit spending," Cohen said. "Grown-ups, in my mind, are supposed to be the responsible ones. They don't try to live high on the hog and then make their children and grandchildren pay for it. ... The people who are behind me have done a great job of acting like grown-ups."

Other points Bean made include:

- It's never been more important to return to the Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rules that helped our nation achieve a \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus. After abandoning those rules, that surplus became a \$3 trillion deficit and the national debt grew to almost \$9 trillion by 2006.
- Congress shifted \$276 billion from low-priority spending to high-priority programs such as veterans' health care, reducing the cost of college loans, and implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

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